

FINAL PROPOSAL: A REVISED PLAN

Reorganize

The Chancellor and Mayor introduced the Renew, Reorganize, and Revitalize proposal to the community on November 28, 2007. With a commitment to capturing public input as a central component of the development of the final plan, the administration held nine public meetings and 23 community hearings, engaging nearly 1600 students, parents, and residents before making changes to the original proposal. The Chancellor and her team then reviewed all of the feedback and input, analyzed various options, met with additional school and community representatives, and weighed alternatives. The result of this extensive process is a revised plan that reflects the academic priorities and strategic planning of the Chancellor balanced with the needs and desires of the community.

The final plan includes several changes from the originally proposed plan introduced last November.

The following six schools are subject to the revised plan:

Bruce Monroe ES - revised proposal is to close Park View ES and consolidate with Bruce Monroe instead, following construction of a new Bruce Monroe

John Burroughs ES - revised proposal is to maintain the program at Burroughs, leaving the Taft building empty

Smothers ES - revised proposal is to close Benning ES instead

Browne JHS - revised proposal is to close Young ES and establish new PK-8 school at Browne

Ron Brown MS - revised proposal is to close Merritt MS instead and consolidate at Ron Brown

Shaw JHS - revised proposal is to close Garnet-Patterson and consolidate with Shaw instead, following construction of a new Shaw MS

A community hearing for these newly proposed closings will take place Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. at McKinley Tech SHS.

Bruce-Monroe Elementary School

Recommendation

Consolidate Bruce Monroe and Park View student bodies and move the Bruce Monroe program (including the dual language model) into the Park View building in 2008. Plan, design, and build a new Bruce Monroe school, beginning in 2008. Students will return to the new Bruce Monroe and the Park View building will close upon the completion. Some students from Park View may attend Raymond, within half a mile of Park View's current boundary.

Bruce-Monroe-Park View will feature the comprehensive staffing model beginning in 2008. This will provide full program resources for academic support, wellness support, enrichment support, and administrative and facility support so that every student has a complete and engaging program available.

Rationale

Bruce-Monroe did not meet first level criteria, and it has struggled with the open plan design of its school and the size and condition of the building. Upon further analysis and significant input from the community, however, it was determined that a relocation of the program would have a serious negative impact to the students and community. Park View did meet the primary criteria, and though it has attractive building amenities, the facility itself is small and in need of substantial repair. On balance, the Chancellor determined that it would be better to invest in a new building at the Bruce-Monroe site in order to continue the momentum of the dual language program and the strong community partnership. By closing Park View, the consolidation will allow the combined schools to enhance program offerings for students.

Primary Criteria

| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| -14% | 320 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 110,700 | 539 | 41% | Open plan design | 127/193 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 361 | Parkview, Tubman | 40% | Decline in households with children | |

Park View Elementary School

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Primary Criteria

| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| -45% | 203 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 82,200 | 425 | 28% | Across from DPR facility | 138/65 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 507 | Raymond | 26% | Decline in households with children | Historic building |

Shaw Junior High School

Recommendation

Consolidate Shaw and Garnet-Patterson students in Garnet-Patterson building in 2008. Plan, design, and rebuild a new Shaw school building on the Shaw site and close the Garnet-Patterson building upon completion.

Garnet-Patterson-Shaw will feature a Gifted and Talented program, serving neighborhood students as well as drawing students citywide, and providing a more rigorous academic option at the middle school level.

Rationale

Both Shaw and Garnet-Patterson are significantly under-enrolled, and Shaw met the other primary criteria with a 38% five-year enrollment decline. Garnet-Patterson and Shaw are within ½ mile of each other. While both buildings require complete modernization, Shaw's open plan configuration and enormous square footage creates substantial facility deficits that would make immediate consolidation difficult. The original proposal called for exploration of the better site, and upon further analysis, the Shaw site, with the adjacent field and park space and location across the street from Seaton ES, offers a better option for the location of the permanently consolidated school.

Primary Criteria

| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| -38% | 333 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 230,400 | 765 | 21% | Open space design | 179/154 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 684 | Garnet-Patterson | 26% | Decline in households with children. | |

Garnet-Patterson Middle School

Recommendation

Consolidate Shaw and Garnet-Patterson students in Garnet-Patterson building in 2008. Plan, design, and rebuild a new Shaw school building on the Shaw site and close the Garnet-Patterson building upon completion.

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Rationale

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| Primary Criteria | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
| -19% | 265 |

| Secondary Criteria | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
| 82,700 | 474 | 20% | | 102/163 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 321 | Shaw | 18% | Decline in households with children | |

Browne Middle School

Recommendation

Fall 2008 consolidate Young and Browne into one PK-8 school in the Browne building, as part of the PK-8 grade configuration for planning area E.

Complete resources will be available for the PreK-8 program and will include full academic support, wellness support, enrichment support and administrative and facility support to provide every student an engaging and enriching experience. Browne-Young keeps its rising 8th graders in 2008, but in future years does not serve as a middle grades recipient for any other schools.

Rationale

Both Browne and Young have experienced substantial enrollment decline. By combining Young and Browne into a PreK-8th grade school, students will go through fewer transitions between schools. The consolidation of Browne and Young preserves walk-ability for the elementary students and better uses the space in the Browne building. Parents may prefer the PK-8 grade configuration because it addresses concerns about sending students far out of their neighborhoods for 6th - 8th grades.

| Primary Criteria | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
| -25% | 402 |

| Secondary Criteria | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
| 215,400 | 832 | 18% | | |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 841 | Young | 25% | | |

Burroughs Elementary School

Recommendation

Burroughs will remain open and grow into a PK-8 program. Students from Slowe ES will be consolidated into Burroughs as well, but the 8th graders from Backus will attend LaSalle instead of Burroughs. Planning and design for adding additional facilities amenities, such as additional classroom and lab space and a gymnasium will begin soon. Current Burroughs 6th graders continue in the program for 7th grade in 2008 and 8th grade the following year.

Rationale

The initial plan proposed to move the Burroughs school program into Taft, consolidating with Backus and Slowe. The Burroughs program is growing stronger, and the school community felt strongly that moving the program to nearby Taft would be highly detrimental to continuing success. While both the Burroughs and Taft buildings and sites are strong assets, it is not practical to maintain two PK-8s in such close proximity. Ultimately the Chancellor decided that it was better for students to maintain the program at Burroughs and build the school into a successful PK-8 program there.

| Primary Criteria | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
| -7% | 247 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 63,900 | 472 | 56% | | 163/84 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 264 | Taft | 42% | .Decline in households with children | |

Ron Brown Middle School

Recommendation

Merritt will close and consolidate into Ron Brown in Fall 2008. Planning and design for a modernized Ron Brown will begin in 2008.

Comprehensive staffing would be instituted to provide full program resources for academic support, wellness support, enrichment support, and administrative and facility support so that every student has a complete and engaging program available. Ron Brown has been identified as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) focus site. Those students would feed into coordinated programs at H. D. Woodson High School. There is great potential in partnering Ron Brown with Woodson to create a 6-12 STEM continuum that should help smooth the sometimes disruptive transition from the middle grades to high school. Increased continuity should improve performance and enhance positive school climate.

Rationale

Both Ron Brown and Merritt Middle Schools met the primary criteria for closing. Ron Brown had a 49% five-year enrollment decline and 2006 enrollment of 254, while Merritt lost 48% of its students over five years and had 247 students last year. They are less than one half mile apart and are thus ideal candidates for consolidation. Although Merritt was proposed initially as the location for the consolidation, further analysis and community input indicated that Ron Brown would serve as a better site for the middle school program.

| Primary Criteria | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
| -49% | 254 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 156,000 | 1085 | 20% | Adjacent to metro | 111/143 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 639 | Merritt | 12% | | |

Merritt Middle School

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| Primary Criteria | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
| -48% | 247 |

| Secondary Criteria | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
| 90,400 | 352 | 11% | Recently improved facility | 130/117 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 409 | Ron Brown | 8% | | |

Benning Elementary School

Recommendation

Benning closes in 2008. Students can attend Smothers or Plummer. Smothers, along with all of the elementary schools in Ward 7, becomes a PK-5 school beginning in Fall 2008. Sixth graders move to Kelly Miller Middle School.

Smothers will feature the comprehensive staffing model beginning in 2008. This will provide full program resources for academic support, wellness support, enrichment support, and administrative and facility support so that every student has a complete and engaging program available.

Rationale

Both Smothers and Benning meet the primary criteria and are unable to offer full academic programs with such severe under-enrollment. The initial proposal called for Benning to remain open, primarily due to the fact that the school is somewhat isolated and students attending Benning would face walkability issues if it were closed. After hearing from the community, however, the Chancellor decided that Benning's poor facilities conditions and open space design could not provide the capacity and environment for a comprehensive academic program, and that Smothers offered a better elementary school site instead.

Primary Criteria

| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| -25% | 178 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 70,900 | 289 | 17% | | 97/81 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 438 | Plummer, Smothers | 13% | | |

Smothers Elementary School

Recommendation

Benning closes in 2008. Students can attend Smothers or Plummer. Smothers, along with all of the elementary schools in Ward 7, becomes a PK-5 school beginning in Fall 2008. Sixth graders move to Kelly Miller Middle School.

Smothers will feature the comprehensive staffing model beginning in 2008. This will provide full program resources for academic support, wellness support, enrichment support, and administrative and facility support so that every student has a complete and engaging program available.

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Primary Criteria

| 02-06 Enrollment Change | 2006 Enrollment |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| -21 % | 210 |

Secondary Criteria

| Bldg Sq Ftge | Capacity | Proficient DCCAS Reading | Bldg/Site amenities | In-boundary/Out-of-Boundary 2006 |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 43,000 | 332 | 32% | | 146/64 |
| SqFt per Student | DCPS Schools within ½ mile | Proficient DCCAS Math | Population and housing changes | Other |
| 231 | Benning, Aiton, Plummer | 20% | | |